

REMARKS

The Office Action of November 30, 2007 has been reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Claims 1-20 remain pending in this application. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested. Each of the Examiner's rejections is discussed below.

SECTION 103

Claims 1-3, 6, 9, and 12-20

Claims 1-3, 6, 9, and 12-20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,029,651 to Flatt ("Flatt") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,253,382 to Beny ("Beny") and U.S. Patent No. 5,813,079 to Halm ("Halm"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The proposed combination of Flatt, Beny, and Halm fails to disclose or make obvious a drive system including a cam track and a drive shaft having a longitudinal axis, a drive end, and a driven end, with the drive end and driven end being coaxial along the longitudinal axis, the drive end freely mounted and received in the cam track, and the driven end operatively mounted to a drive connection of an implement head, as required by independent claims 1 and 19.

In Flatt, an end of link 29 is mounted and received in its cam track (aperture 8). Link 29 is pivotally connected by a joint 34 to inner end 12 of drive rod 10, with outer end 11 of drive rod 10 connected to toothbrush 15. The drive end of drive rod 10 of Flatt is not mounted and received in a cam track. Rather, it is an end of link 29 that is mounted and received in its cam track (aperture 8). The drive end of drive rod 10 is merely connected to link 29.

Beny and Halm simply have no cam track into which a drive shaft is mounted.

Since these required elements are not disclosed or made obvious by the proposed combination of Flatt, Beny, and Halm, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 4-5

Claims 4-5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flatt, Beny, and Halm in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,895,625 to Lev et al. ("Lev"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Lev fails to overcome the deficiencies of Flatt, Beny, and Halm noted above and, therefore, the combination of Flatt, Beny, Halm, and Lev, even if proper, fails to teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1, from which claims 4-5 depend. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 7-8

Claims 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flatt, Beny, and Halm in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,538,530 to Stemme ("Stemme"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Stemmer fails to overcome the deficiencies of Flatt, Beny, and Halm noted above and, therefore, the combination of Flatt, Beny, Halm, and Stemme, even if proper, fails to teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1, from which claims 7-8 depend. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claim 10

Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flatt, Beny, and Halm in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0066145 to Prineppi ("Prineppi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Prineppi fails to overcome the deficiencies of Flatt, Beny, and Halm noted above and, therefore, the combination of Flatt, Beny, Halm, and Prineppi, even if

proper, fails to teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1, from which claim 10 depends. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claim 11

Claim 11 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Flatt, Beny, and Halm in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,149,291 to Stoltz ("Stoltz"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

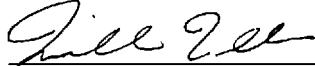
Stoltz fails to overcome the deficiencies of Flatt, Beny, and Halm noted above and, therefore, the combination of Flatt, Beny, Halm, and Stoltz, even if proper, fails to teach or suggest all the features of independent claim 1, from which claim 11 depends. Accordingly, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. If any additional fees are required or if an overpayment has been made, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 03-2455.

Respectfully submitted,

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